BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-23 June 10th, 2013

- **The unemployment rate in B.C. edged up to 6.8% in May**
- **The value of B.C.'s commodity shipments dropped 8.8% in April**
- **Non-residential building investment in B.C. rose 11.5% in the first quarter of 2013**

Labour Force Survey

- **In May the number of employed persons remained relatively unchanged (-300, *seasonally adjusted*) compared to the previous month; conversely, the number of unemployed persons increased by 9,600.** The increase in the number of unemployed coupled with a smaller increase in the labour force (+9,300) drove the unemployment rate up 0.4 percentage points to 6.8%.

  All of the employment gains in B.C. came from the private sector (+14,300), while public sector employment contracted (-2,700), reversing the strong public sector employment growth in the previous month.

  When compared to April, the goods-producing sector was up 7,500 jobs in May. The largest gains were in the construction (+7,500) and manufacturing (+3,500) industries. Agriculture (-5,500) was the only goods-producing industry to report a noticeable month over month decline in jobs. Over the twelve months ending in May 2013, employment in the goods-producing sector has declined by 18,000 jobs (-3.9%).

  In May, employment declined in the services-producing sector by an estimated 7,800 jobs over April. The largest job losses were in the health care and social assistance (-5,200), business, building and other support services (-4,800) and information, culture and recreation (-4,600) industries. Transportation and warehousing (-2,900) and professional, scientific and technical services (-2,000) industries declined in May as well. These losses were offset somewhat by employment gains in retail and wholesale trade (+3,800), public administration (+2,300), finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+2,100), other services (+2,100) and accommodation and food services (+1,700). Compared to May 2012, employment in the service sector has grown by 12,900 jobs (+0.7%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Nationally, the unemployment rate has remained relatively stable, falling 0.1 percentage points to 7.1% (*seasonally adjusted*), while no change occurred between March and April.** Gains were made in both full-time (+76,700) and part-time (+18,200) employment. The majority of the gains in employment came from the private sector (+94,600), while the public sector (+6,600) made modest gains in employment. Self-employment fell by 6,200 jobs.

  In the West, Saskatchewan continued to have the lowest unemployment rate (4.5%)—followed by Alberta (4.8%), Manitoba (5.7%) and B.C. (6.8%). Additionally, Saskatchewan had the strongest rate of 12-month employment growth at 2.9%, while Alberta (+2.3%) and Manitoba (+0.1%) had slower growth. Employment in B.C. contracted slightly (-0.2%) over the past 12 months.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **The value of B.C.'s commodity exports fell 8.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April with significant declines in shipments of energy products (-21.1%), metal ores and non-metallic minerals (-37.7%) and aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts (-38.5%).** One of the few bright spots in April was the rise in exports of forestry products and building and packaging materials (+4.6%).

Did you know...

Canada has the highest number of donut stores per capita in the world. *Data Source: BNN*

The overall decline in exports was due to an 18.3% slump in shipments to countries other than the United States, as exports to the U.S. actually increased 3.2%. Strong growth in exports of energy products (+13.7%) drove much of the increase in shipments to the United States. However, a 36.7% drop in energy product exports was one of the main contributors to the decline in shipments from B.C. to the rest of the world, along with a 39.9% plunge in exports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals. *Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada*

- **Investment in non-residential building construction rose 11.5% (*unadjusted, 2007 constant dollars*) in the first quarter of 2013, compared to the same quarter of 2012.** This marks the second quarterly increase, driven by industrial (+60.7%) and commercial (+15.5%) construction, as investment in institutional and government projects fell (-11.4%) for the sixth straight quarter.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued by municipalities in British Columbia surged 40.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April, the largest increase recorded since February 2012 (+40.6%).** Both residential (+45.5%) and non-residential (+28.6%) construction intentions were on the rise. A staggering 443.7% increase in the value of institutional & government building permits drove up the non-residential component, with increased activity in the Capital and Central Okanagan regional districts. Industrial (-52.3%) and commercial (-8.5%) permit values fell.

  Nationally, permits were up (+10.5%), entirely due to activity in the residential (+21.0%) sector, while non-residential permit values contracted slightly (-3.6%). New Brunswick (+318.6%) led the nation, with non-residential permit values registering an increase of 977.2%. B.C. (+40.4%), Quebec (+21.9%), and Ontario (+11.5%) also recorded strong intentions, while plans to build were down in PEI (-54.0%), Nova Scotia (-22.2%), and Alberta (-12.5%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **On a year-to-date basis, the value of building permits issued in British Columbia fell 7.5% in April, compared to the same period of 2012.** Four of the eight development regions saw double-digit declines, with the largest drop recorded in North Coast (-93.1%), followed by Cariboo (-39.4%), Kootenay (-24.2%), and Northeast (-12.7%). Nechako (+96.3%) led the province, in terms of growth, spurred by commercial activity in the Burns Lake region. Intentions were also up in Thompson/Okanagan (+13.4%), Vancouver Island/Coast (+3.7%), and Mainland/Southwest (+2.0%).

  Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

Health

- **In the period between 2007 and 2011, Canadian adults, aged 18 to 79, spent 9 hours and 47 minutes per day on average sedentary (*not including sleep*).** Sedentary activities include any time spent sitting or lying down. Females spent more time sedentary per day on average (9 hours and 54 minutes), than males (9 hours and 42 minutes), with the youngest female cohort (aged 18 to 39) averaging 9 hours and 42 minutes per day, and the oldest cohort (aged 60 to 79) spending 10 hours and 6 minutes per day in a sedentary position. The youngest male cohort spent 9 hours and 30 minutes of their waking hours sedentary, while the oldest cohort spent 9 hours and 54 minutes.

  When it comes to moderate to vigorous activity, the gap between the sexes is narrower, with females averaging 18 minutes per day, and men 24 minutes per day. Moderate to vigorous activity includes activities which cause the individual to sweat, breathe harder, or be out of breath, such as jogging or bike riding. Light activity, such as light household cleaning, cooking, or leisurely walking, accounted for approximately 3 hours and 42 minutes of waking hours per day for women, and 3 hours and 54 minutes for men. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline

June 10, 2013
Issue 13-23

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,639.9	0.8
Canada	35,056.1	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar 2013	3,360	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2013	3,001	12.9
Retail Sales - Mar 2013	5,156	0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Apr 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	-0.8	0.6
Vancouver	-0.8	0.8
Victoria	-1.3	0.4
Canada	0.4	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2013	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	9.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,471.0	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,312.1	0.4
Unemployed - BC	158.8	-8.3
		Mar 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.4	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 05/2013	Jun 06/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.20
- 5 year	5.14	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 05/2013	Jun 06/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0345	1.0372
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9666	0.9729
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2013	% change on one year ago
BC	877.05	3.9
Canada	885.20	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- Exports, April
- Labour Force Statistics, May
- Earnings & Employment Trends, May

To Release this week

- No releases

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca